National Demonstration Project Kelly's Creek Infrastructure and Development Plan---Process Steps

As the Kelly's Creek Mine-Scarred Lands (MSL) Demonstration Project is now in position to move into its next key phase, the goals are to establish infrastructure and development plans in support of cleanup and redevelopment of the Kelly's Creek Watershed.

Current resources to carry this project forward are limited; The EPA Brownfields grant is limited in scope (e.g. can not fund sewer planning activities) and, though the scope of contractor resources through the MSL Demonstration Project is flexible, the funds are limited. Current resources should therefore be used as efficiently as possible and should be used to leverage additional funding and technical support to further the project's overall goals. It is in KCCA's and Kanawha County's best interest to engage potential partners at the beginning and throughout the process as they may have specific expertise and may be able to highlight the project for future funding opportunities. It is critical that Kanawha County is committed to this project, as it must be the applicant for many of the funding programs (e.g. CDBG).

During the initial infrastructure and development planning phase of the process, it is necessary to determine possible options for bringing sewer treatment to the approximately 220 Kelly's Creek residents. Possible solutions include expanding and upgrading a nearby treatment system to incorporate the Kelly's Creek residents (e.g. Chelyan or Glasgow) or developing some form of an alternative treatment system. It is necessary to obtain willingness from a local Public Service District (PSD) to consider enhancing their system before expending funds to conduct a detailed sewer cost estimate on the PSD options. Similarly, before expending funds to conduct a sewer cost estimate on alternative treatment options, it is necessary to conduct research to: ensure discharge requirements allow alternative options; gain a better understanding of the types of alternative options that could work in Kelly's Creek; and determine if alternative options will enable future development.

While research is being conducted on sewer options, it is necessary to engage the major landowners' representatives. Funding from the Kanawha County Brownfields grant can be used to conduct a Step 1 Reuse Study to analyze the highest and best use of portions of the property (e.g., isolate areas for future mining and development), and to conduct a Phase I environmental assessment to determine if there is any contamination on the property. Though funding has not yet been determined, an additional step may be to conduct a Step 2 Reuse Study, which will provide a master development plan projecting specific costs and anticipated returns. Because development of the large land tracts may affect which sewer option to explore (i.e. it may be less expensive to develop an alternative treatment system but limit future development), it is important to determine the viability and commitment to develop the property before moving forward with detailed sewer cost estimates and plans.

After unfeasible sewer options are eliminated and it is determined whether or not future development of the large land tracts is viable, a detailed sewer cost estimate on possible options should be developed. If future development is viable, potential developers should also be identified. Sewer options should be prioritized and a funding packet developed that includes justification for developing a sewer treatment system, costs, and partners. By convening Federal and State partners to develop a possible funding plan and applying to the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council, KCCA and Kanawha County will have developed a funding blueprint and can begin to secure resources.

